

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 OPR-02

SCCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /055 W

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O 212015Z APR 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8456

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

MSGBN WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ATHENS 3080

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION IN ATHENS: DAMAGE TO EMBASSY

1. ON APRIL 21, 1975 AT 1700 HOURS NUMEROUS GREEK YOUTH AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS TRADE UNIONS AND ALL PARTIES VOICING OPPOSITION TO FORMER GREEK JUNTA GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLED TOGETHER AT THE NATIONAL POLYTECHNICAL SCHOOL OF GREECE. CROWD LISTENED TO SPEECHES FAVORING NEVER TO ALLOW A DICTATORIAL REGIME AGAIN IN GREECE AND SHOUTING OFTEN ANTI-AMERICAN SLOGANS.

2. DEMONSTRATORS NUMBERING APPROXIMATELY 100,000 PEOPLE AS PLANNED MARCHED TO US EMBASSY ARRIVING THERE AT 2000 HOURS. INITIALLY IT APPEARED TO BE PEACEFUL SHOUTING DEMONSTRATION AS ENCOUNTERED IN PAST. AT 2025 HOURS THE DEMONSTRATORS HALTED THE MARCH PAST AND BEGAN BURNING FIVE AMERICAN FLAGS, AND THREW APPROXIMATELY 40 EGGS FILLED WITH RED PAINT AT EMBASSY. CROWD MEMBERS ALSO THREW LOUD NOISE FIRE CRACKERS, FIREROCKETS AND CHERRY BOMBS. AT 2045 HOURS THE DEMONSTRATORS AT SIDE OF EMBASSY - CONSULAR SIDE- BROKE THROUGH POLICE LINES RUSHING UP THE LAWN TO SIDE OF EMBASSY CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE. THE DEMONSTRATORS CAUSING DAMAGE, UNCLASSIFIED

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NUMBERED APPROXIMATELY 500. THE POLICE COULD NOT DRIVE THEM

BACK UNTIL 2115 HOURS.

3. DEMONSTRATORS WITH USE OF ROCKS, BRANCHES OF TREES AND UNDETERMINED

INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL SMASHED WINDOWS AND PROTECTIVE SUN SCREEN
IRON/MASONRY SHIELDS AT GROUND LEVEL NORTH EAST SIDE OF CONSULAR
SECTION ONE OFFICE AT NORTH EAST CORNER ALSO SUFFERED SOME FIRE
DAMAGE HOWEVER MARINE PRESENCE PRECLUDED EXTENSIVE COST DAMAGE.
AMBASSADOR'S THIRD FLOOR OFFICE ALSO SUFFERED BROKEN WINDOWS.
AT NO TIME DID DEMONSTRATORS BREAK IN OR ENTER EMBASSY OFFICES,
LOBBY ETC. AT 2115 HOURS AFTER UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF POLICE
WER BADLY INJURED THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE FORCED BY RIOT POLICE
TO FLEE, THE IMMEDIATE EMBASSY AREA. POLICE USED RIOT ARMORED
VEHICLES AND EXTENSIVE USE OF TEAR GAS TO BREAK UP THE DEMONSTRATORS.
DURING PERIOD 2115 TO 2145 POLICE CONTINUED TO BREAK UP REFORMING
GROUPS OF DEMONSTRATORS RESULTING IN PEACE BEING RESTORED AT EMBASSY.
NO AMERICAN OR EMPLOYEE OF THE US EMBASSY WAS INJURED. ALL PERSONS
ON DUTY INSIDE EMBASSY PERFORMED WITH GREAT CREDIT. AS TO BE EXPECTED
MARINES ON DUTY CARRIED OUT DUTIES IN EXEMPLARY FASHION.
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